

**FACULTY SENATE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

4 December 2023

IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS: Robert Sprague, *Chair*; Ray Fertig, *Chair Elect*; Treva Sprout Ahrenholtz, *Secretary*, Vladimir Alvarado, *Gregg Cawley, Rob Godby, and Tiger Robison Members-at-Large*. *Past-Chair Renee Laegreid was excused.*

Guests: James Ahern, *Vice Provost for Graduate Education*, Steve Barrett, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*, Mandy Jane Gifford, *Chief of Staff to the Provost*.

Chair Robert Sprague called the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSE) meeting to order at 12:11 pm.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 27; motion made, seconded, and carried.

The Chair requested that the Faculty Academic Standards, Rights and Responsibilities Committee be charged to work with Dr. Martha McCaughey on the Implementation phase of the President's Freedom of Expression Principles. The FSE Committee discussed and agreed, and some members expressed surprise that the resolution endorsing the principles passed without further substantive debate.

The Chair reported that during the previous President's Cabinet Meeting there was a discussion around the observance of religious holidays, namely that University Regulations allow for an student's authorized absence in the event of a religious holiday (as well as accommodations for employees), but that there was no clear public knowledge of this and that the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion had been tasked with creating a website allowing students to navigate the authorized excuse process. The FSE Committee discussed.

The Chair reported that Associate Vice President for Human Resources Bob Link would be present at the next Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the Business Intelligence reorganization, noting that the site created for the reorganization had not been updated since February and that the Chair was communicating with Staff Senate regarding their concerns with the process.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Staff Senate President currently receives half time off to perform his duties, and that the administration wanted to give the Staff Senate President a

\$1600 stipend instead of allowing for half time off, and that on another note, there was no course release time under University Regulations for staff to take advantage of their course benefits, and that Staff Senate was attempting to see policies changed to allow for release time in light of some management denying release time. The Chair expressed his support for assisting Staff Senate, including but not limited to, introducing Faculty Senate Resolutions supporting Staff Senate's positions if the FSE Committee supported the idea. The FSE Committee expressed support for the idea.

The Chair reported that the Take-a-Trustee-to-Class initiative was progressing, and that it looked like it would take place in mid-March, but that there were some time conflicts with the Trustee Committee meetings. The Chair noted that he had informed the Board of Trustees Secretary that we preferred the Trustees to attend a midday class, but that he would work with the Trustees schedule (and may need to visit early morning classes). The Chair noted that a course schedule for the next semester had already been created for the Trustees to. The FSE Committee discussed.

The Chair informed the FSE Committee that he had tasked Office Associate Engel-Cartie with creating a survey to elect the new members of the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel from among the University Faculty. Office Associate Engel-Cartie introduced a draft of the survey to the FSE Committee, which expressed that it wished to see some changes to the wording of the survey and asked the Chair if there would be any introduction of the Faculty Dispute Resolution Panel and its purpose before the survey was taken. The Chair responded that he would be sending out the survey via email and that the email would include that information.

The Chair noted that the 2-13 low degree completions had been submitted to the Board of Trustees and that he was in regular communication with the APC and Graduate Council chairs regarding the issue, and that Saman Aryana, Chair of the Graduate Council, was reaching out to department heads to garner feedback regarding the proposals. Chief of Staff Gifford noted that the report had derived from the Deans who had received their reports from the Department Heads and that she was hopeful that she could work with the Chair to gather more information and that she would speak to the Provost about sending the Chair the Department Heads' responses to an information request by the Provost, due December 13. The Chair expressed support for this and noted that it would avoid a great deal of duplicate effort if the Department Heads' information could be shared with FSE Committee, and that time was a factor for both Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees when reviewing these programs. The FSE Committee discussed.

The Chair introduced the draft Agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on December 11. The Chair asked Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz if she still wished to update the Senate on the Next Gen and 2-13 Committees. Secretary Sprout-Ahrenholtz responded that she would. The FSE Committee asked if the President's office representative would be present. The Chair responded that he did not know but would email her to find out. Chief of Staff Gifford asked the FSE Committee if they would like the provost to be present for the FSE Committee's December 11 meeting to get an idea of the questions that he would be asked at that day's full Faculty Senate

meeting. The Chair responded that the Provost's presence was more aimed at allowing for the Provost to inform the faculty about the process going forward and to express his ideas on faculty course loads. The FSE Committee agreed but advised that the Provost, as well as Senior Vice Provost Tami Benham-Deal, attend regardless. The FSE Committee discussed.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda for the December 11 meeting of the Senate. Motion made, seconded, and carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm.